

EPA-PNL-401

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Please respond to Hanady Kader/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

To Phil North

cc

bcc

Subject [epa_bristolbay] EPA announces independent scientific peer review panel for Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

EPA has announced an independent scientific peer review panel that will review the agency's draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.

Peer review is a tool EPA uses to ensure that the agency has high quality, sound science. The independent panel was selected by Versar, Inc., an independent contractor, which received and evaluated a total of 68 nominations.

The twelve final panel members were chosen based on the candidates' expertise and professional accomplishments; ability to work effectively in a committee setting; willingness to commit time for the thorough review of the assessment; availability to participate in-person in the peer review panel meeting; and absence of a conflict of interest and absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality.

In addition, EPA announced the draft charge questions that the peer review panel will address in its review of the draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. These charge questions will help guide the panel's consideration of EPA's assessment. The public can comment on these draft charge questions as outlined in a Federal Register Notice published on June 5, 2012. The comment period for the draft charge questions will end on June 26, 2012. EPA will consider all of the comments received in finalizing the charge questions.

To see the Federal Register Notice announcing the peer review panel and the draft charge questions, visit:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/06/05/2012-13431/an-assessment-of-potential-mining-impacts-on-salmon-ecosystems-of-bristol-bay-alaska-peer-review>

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